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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 649
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to designate the first Wednesday of April, 2000, as a "Day of Hope" in Tennessee, in remembrance of victims of child abuse and neglect.

WHEREAS, Childhelp, U.S.A., one of the oldest and largest national nonprofit organizations dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse initiated a "National Day of Hope" last year. The stated goal was to create a greater awareness of child abuse and to inspire and mobilize people across the country to work for solutions to this tragic problem; and

WHEREAS, more than 3 million American children are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect annually; a child is abused every ten seconds; and

WHEREAS, more than 500,000 American children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes and institutions; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that each day in America, more than three children, 78 percent under the age of five and 38 percent under one year of age, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect; and

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WHEREAS, this tragic social problem results in human and economic costs due to its relationship to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; therefore, it is incumbent on all Americans to break this cycle and give our children hope for the future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That a "Day of Hope", established by Childhelp, U.S.A., be observed on the first Wednesday in April, 2000, in Tennessee, during Child Abuse Prevention Month to focus public awareness on this social ill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the faith community, nonprofit organizations and volunteers throughout Tennessee recommit themselves to mobilize their resources to assist abused and neglected children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Tennesseans are urged to support any and all actions on behalf of abused and neglected children, committing their prayers, words, resources and abilities to that end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.